

LEHIGH VALLEY SPORTSFEST, INC.
SOCCER TOURNAMENT
www.sportsfest.org

PLAYING RULES 2009

1. FIFA Laws of Soccer are in effect unless excluded here.
2. A team may field nine (9) players including a designated goalkeeper. Roster size is 20 maximum. Team Roster is due in before the first game is played and can not be changed.
3. A forfeit will be declared (the score will be 1-0) if a team has fewer than seven (7) players and/or is **not ready to play at the scheduled starting time**. If a team, during a game, is reduced to fewer than six (6) players by reason of injury or send-off, the game will be forfeited. If winning, the score will revert to 0-1, if losing, the score will stand.
4. A game will consist of two 27-minute halves with a two-minute half time. In case of a tie score, one 5-minute sudden-death overtime will be played.
5. The referee is the sole judge of time and score, and has full authority on the field. **No protests will be allowed.** There will be a running clock. It will be stopped only when the referee feels that circumstances warrant more than one-minute time-out. The player receiving a caution (yellow card) or sent off (red card) is required to give his/her name to the referee who reports it back to the Directors.
6. Sportsfest will provide the game ball. Each team shall provide one back-up ball for use during the game in case the game ball is lost. The referee must approve all game-balls before use.
7. **No offside**, i.e., the offside rule will not be in effect.
8. Either team can substitute on a throw-in, on a goal kick, after a goal or injury and at half time. The referee must be notified before a substitution is made.
9. A player is ineligible for participation in the game following receipt of his/her **second yellow** card. A red-carded player is ineligible to participate in the match following that in which he/she was sent off. Ineligibility may extend to more than one game depending on the nature of the send off. The Directors determine the length of suspension. **All red card suspensions will carry over from one season to the next (an effort will be made to track who these players into the next tournament are in order to enforce this rule).**
10. **Playoff Games:** If score is tied at the end of regulation time, a maximum of four (4) sudden-death periods of 5-minute duration will be played until a goal is scored. There is no "rest" provision between overtime periods. If game is still tied, penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winner.
11. **Use of foul language will result in an automatic caution** (yellow card). The referees are asked to strictly enforce this rule! We have many family members present and your cooperation is requested.
12. Player(s) sent-off for fighting will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament as a minimum.
13. If a player who is not registered or is under age in an age restricted division is caught. The player will be suspended from the tournament and the team will finish the game down one man. Previous wins by that team will be converted to 1-0 forfeit loss.
14. A player who gives a false name to the official upon receipt of a caution will be penalized with a one game suspension; and if he/she is sent off (red card) and gives a false name to the referee, the player's regular suspension is doubled. E.g.: instead of one game, the player sits out two games.
15. Each COED team must have at least four (4) female players registered on the team and must have at last two (2) female players on the field at all times.

NOTE: Playing Rules 12 & 13 above are designed to eliminate unregistered players and encourage honesty at all times.

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TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS 2009

1. **Player eligibility:**
 - a. **Men's Open Division:** over 18 years old men or women as of July 1 of current season. Younger players must submit a signed parental consent form and be approved.
 - b. **Men's Over-35 Division:** adult men or women 35 years old or older as of July 1 of current season.
 - c. **Men's Over 45 Division:** adult men or women 45 years old or older as of July 1 of current season.
 - d. **Women's Open Division:** over 18 years old women as of July 1 of current season.
 - e. **COED Open Division:** over 18 years old men or women as of July 1 of current season. Younger players must submit a signed parental consent form and be approved.

2. **Team Roster Changes:**
 - a. Completed Team Rosters must be submitted before the first game is played by that team.
 - b. The rosters must be submitted with the players names, players age, players jersey number, and players signature before playing (note the Injury and Liability Release Clause requires a signature).
 - c. Late arriving players must sign the previously submitted roster held by the Division Director before playing.

3. **If the case of one team forfeiting a game:**
 - a. The team that forfeits a game because it is not ready at the scheduled time or cannot field the minimum number of seven (7) players concedes a 0-1 forfeit loss to the opponent.
 - b. The team that forfeits is still obligated to play the scheduled opponent and the referee will call the game normally and submit the game card with a 1-0 forfeit result, including yellow and red cards if applicable.
 - c. The opposing team may elect to give the forfeiting team enough players to allow the game to be played as a normal game. If this is the case, the game is counted as a normal game, including cards and score.

4. **In the case of two teams forfeiting a game at the same time:**
 - a. If both teams are unable to field the minimum number of players, they may still play each other with reduced field players and the game will count as a normal game. The referee will shorten the duration of each half of play in order to fit the reduced game time into the scheduled time slot.
 - b. As this game progresses and it becomes evident one of the teams can not finish the game, then the other team will be awarded the 1-0 forfeit win. The team unable to complete the game will concede a 0-1 forfeit loss.
 - c. The overall intention is to give all teams in a division an equal number of games to make the playoff selection as fair and equitable as possible. Every team is obligated to play their initial round of games before play-offs.

5. **In case of inclement weather**, the Referees and Division Directors will consider the circumstances effecting each Field Location. They will make the decision on whether to play, postpone, modify, or cancel, a game, and if the tournament arrangements may need to be altered to complete the tournament considering the safety of the players, integrity of the fields and the need to complete that Divisions games.

6. **Standings for each Division will be determined by** allotting 3 points for win, 1 point for tie, 0 points for loss. Each playing field location will have a Directors Table where scores will be updated and game statistics tracked, including goals for, goals against, yellow cards, red cards, ejection's, forfeits, etc...

7. **In case of ties for final positions in the standings**, the following criteria in the order shown will be used: (1) result of head-to-head competition, (2) highest goal differential, i.e., goals for - goals against, (3) least goals allowed, (4) most goals scored, and (5) coin toss.

8. **Playoff schedule for each Division is as follows:**
 - a. After Group, 1st team plays the 4th team, 2nd team plays the 3rd team, 5th team plays the 6th team.
 - b. 5th and 6th teams are done but may be needed to fill in if a top four team drops out.
 - c. Loser of 1 vs 4 plays loser of 2 vs 3 in a consolation gam for Third Place.
 - d. Winner of 1 vs 4 plays winner 2 vs 3 in the of Division Championship Game.

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9. **In case team uniforms are too alike:** Sportsfest will provide pennies to the team willing to where them. If neither team wishes to where the pennies, a coin flip will determine who where the pennies.
10. **Trophies** will be awarded to Division Champions and the Second Place Team in each division.
11. Players and spectators are encouraged to enjoy the games and are asked to clean-up their respective sitting areas and make use of the trash and recycle containers deployed around the park. All the normal Public Park rules apply to this festival, including the restrictions on the public consumption of alcohol. Please take time to visit the festival at Cedar Beach and enjoy the various sporting events taking place throughout the park.
12. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is restricted to the designated areas at the Sportsfest Festival and certain areas of the Public Parks and not allowed near the playing fields. **No underage (under 21) drinking of alcoholic beverages is allowed anywhere.**
13. All participants, players, coaches, spectators and officials must vacate the playing fields at dusk, or by 9:00 PM at the latest. Behaviors detrimental to the tournament are not tolerated. Violators are subject to ejection from the tournament. All participants are encouraged to visit the Festival at Cedar Beach and stay until closing time.